

Royal Society to give young scientists funds

by Clive Conson
science correspondent

The Royal Society is planning a major initiative to help Britain's best young scientists by providing them with funds to set up research groups.

The Society's *Forward Look 1978-79 to 1981/82*, submitted to the Government, says some initiative is needed to counter "the danger of research becoming frozen in its present mould and that many of our brightest young scientists, unable to develop their new ideas will become frustrated and go abroad".

It proposes to "seize an opportunity for stimulating the formation of new research groups in potentially exciting new fields around very able young scientists. The support of even a small number of such groups for limited periods of say five to seven years, on conditions which would survive and find more permanent support, could have an impact on all proportion to the cost".

The Royal Society's proposals go further than existing schemes to help outstanding university scientists who cannot find tenure in university posts, such as the Science Research Council's advanced fellowships. The society would provide support in the form of research assistants, equipment and other research expenses to enable them to "form the nuclei of small but viable research groups".

Although the Secretary of State for Education and Science, Mrs Williams, has publicly commended the plans, the society is not yet prepared to commit on them. Sir Frederick Stewart, chairman of the Advisory Board for the Research Councils, which advises the Government on the distribution of the Science Vote, said the ABRC had discussed the proposals and looked on them with favour.

Initially the Royal Society could probably meet the costs of its new initiative by cutting back some of its existing activities, such as exchange fellowships and travel grants on which it spent £0.75m last year.

But if the scheme goes well the society intends to press for a larger share of the Science Vote than the 1 per cent it gets at present (about £2.7m per annum).

Two of the Royal Society's most prestigious research fellowships, the Wolfson Professorship held by Dorothy Hodgkin and the Henry Gwynne-Jones Professorship held by James Gowenlock, will be vacant this year, and the society's new emphasis on youth will be seen where they are filled. Preference will be given to outstanding younger scientists who do not hold university chairs.

The society has 14 research professorships financed from its share of the Science Vote and another four supported from private funds. It also provides 31 research fellowships at more junior levels from private funds.

Academics approached to be Scientology tax witnesses

by Judith Judd

Academics throughout the country received a tempting offer this week from the Church of Scientology. Dozens have been approached and asked to act as expert witnesses at a Value Added Tax tribunal—in return for a fee.

The Scientologists need them to take part in their fight to establish that courses at the College of Scientology in East Grinstead are the equivalent of university courses and therefore exempt from VAT. The issue is due to be decided at a VAT tribunal on November 1.

This week a spokesman for the Church of Scientology said that "a wide spectrum of academics and educationalists" had agreed to act as witnesses. Some were from universities and some from other educational institutions. However, he said he was unable to give the number of academics involved or to name them or their universities.

Lecturers at at least three universities, Nottingham, Birmingham and London, have been approached and in some cases, as many as 20

Cardiff form appointment working party

by Frances Gibb

The senate of University of Cardiff, agreed this week to form a working party on the appointment of the new vice-chancellor of the college.

The working party, which will comprise four professors, two members of the non-professional staff and a student, will look for a candidate for the post of vice-chancellor at the organization and membership of senate and of governing appointments.

The motion, which was unanimously agreed, says the "spirit of positive discussion" should be maintained in the consideration of the report of the committee on the organization and membership of senate which was rejected in 1972.

At the same time it was considered to proceed with amendment at the college, to be considered by the Association of Teachers' policy document in 1978.

The motion comes in the wake of the report of the committee on the organization and membership of senate which was rejected in 1972.

Venables decision will 'affect course of adult learning'

The decision of the Open University to implement the Venables report will profoundly affect the course of adult education, Mr Brian Groombridge, director of London University's department of extramural studies, said this week.

Speaking at the centenary conference of the Library Association at the Royal Festival Hall, Mr Groombridge said the decision would have important consequences for libraries which must adapt to offer more open access and learning to the public.

Users would have to be given more than a brochure about a library and librarians would need to take into account that in future there would be students doing high-level work at their own homes.

The Venables decision would provide high-quality software for adult education. Courses could be designed especially for groups or individuals who might not want or be able to go out one evening a week to a class.

Librarians should show an increasing solidarity with the independent learner. One way to do this would be by grouping together books and pamphlets to form learning schemes.



Inquiry into 'secret DES cuts' claim

by Judith Judd

A Department of Education and Science investigation began this week into suggestions that it is making hidden cuts in teacher training numbers.

The National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education became concerned after several colleges and local authorities noted discrepancies between the intake figures for 1978 and the global total of students. Rolfe College, Exmouth, reckoned that its intake meant a reduction of as much as 20 per cent.

A spokesman for the NATFHE said: "We are very concerned that the Government may be making hidden cuts in the teacher training numbers and if we are not satisfied with the explanation we receive we shall be taking the matter to the Secretary of State."

The association believes that the figures which have been sent out to colleges are out of step with the assumptions in a Government circular sent out last month in which they had been told the current reorganization of teacher training is based. One is that 50 per cent of the intake will stay on for a fourth year, although this varies from institution to institution.

£120m Whitehall package to aid poorer overseas students

by Sue Reid

A £120m Government package to aid thousands of overseas students from poor countries studying in Britain is now under active discussion in Whitehall and will be put to a special sub-committee of the Cabinet in the next few months.

The package, a major initiative by the Government, which has come under increasing criticism about the sharp rises in foreign student fees levels, will aim to introduce a system of positive discrimination giving a new priority to Third World students at the expense of wealthy students from Europe and the wealthy sectors of the oil rich nations will inevitably be asked to pay even higher fees.

The package will not consist of new Government funds but instead there will be a "redemption of resources". Students from America, Europe and the wealthy sectors of the oil rich nations will inevitably be asked to pay even higher fees.

Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, has been a prime initiator of the proposed package. She has indicated that a system of positive discrimination in favour of poorer foreign students should be introduced before the end of the decade.

If the scheme wins government backing—it is expected to go before the Cabinet early next year following detailed talks with interested bodies—it is likely to receive a warm welcome from those in the field.

Organizations such as the United Kingdom Council for Overseas Students' Affairs and the National Union of Students have argued eloquently against the present discriminatory policies governing foreign students' fees and awards.

The latest figures show that last year there were 75,796 overseas students in public sector educational institutions in Britain with 85 per cent from developing countries.

News of the package comes within two weeks of a proposal put to government by the UKCOISA and the Council for Education in the Commonwealth that a standing commission should be set up to coordinate overseas students' affairs. A decision is expected from Mrs Williams within the next month.

Leads students were this week holding an emergency meeting about the plight of Nigerians who may be expelled from courses because their Government has failed to pay fees. Some colleges have decided that no students sponsored by the Nigerian High Commission will be accepted unless the tuition fees are paid in advance.

Government ruling soon on future of literacy agency

The Government is to make a ruling on the future of the Adult Literacy Resource Agency, its campaign to help Britain's two million illiterates within the next two weeks.

A decision is to be announced by the Department of Education and Science following the publication next week of the agency's progress report for 1976-77 which calls for direct central Government funding to ensure that basic adult education is provided by every local education authority.

The proposals put forward by the agency, which is due to lose its £1m a year "pump priming" grant next April, argue that a basic adult education unit with a central steering committee, funded to the tune of £150,000, should advise local education authorities and voluntary organizations concerned with provision.

The report goes on to say that the agency in its present role as a funding body should be continued. Instead it points out the diverse nature of funding adult literacy provision and ignoring other aspects of basic education, such as numeracy, and calls for a completely new initiative to rationalize the level of provision between authorities.

The British Association of Settlements, a prime initiator of the adult literacy movement, has also submitted proposals to the Government about the future of provision of basic education, and the specific Government funding for literacy provision by local authorities and the continuing work of voluntary organizations in the field.

It has pointed to the need for statutory regulations to compel local education authorities to allocate specific sums to adult literacy provision from within their overall budget.

28 per cent more sought

continued from page 1

claim. He recognized, however, while the Government was using a cash limit system there would be difficulties, but hoped they would be overcome.

But others did not see the light. Dr De Emmerich, secretary of the University AUL, said it seemed though the Government was settling within the existing limit. Previously, it had been given extra money.

Ugandan refugees to get support

The Ministry of Overseas Development is to finance a scheme to help some 100 refugees from Uganda who are studying in Britain and lack means of support.

The scheme will be administered by the World University Service, which will provide financial support for students in higher education whose subject requirements are similar to those of British students.

US backer for Oxford college

The future of Oxford's new medical college has been assured by a £1m gift from the Texas philanthropist Cecil H. Green and his wife.

In appreciation, Congregation will be asked next month to change the name from Radcliffe to Green College.

Sir Richard Doll, Regius professor of medicine at Oxford, will resign his chair in October 1979. After the donation was announced last week, he said: "The gift has transformed the outlook for the department of the new college."

Dr Green, born in Manchester and educated in Canada, founded a chain of electronics firms in America. His benefactions in England have put him in the same category as Lord Nuffield.

The new college, being set up in the buildings and grounds of the Radcliffe Observatory, should be in operation by October, 1979. It is intended mainly for postgraduate students of clinical medicine.

Courses—more local say

by David Walker

Local authorities are to have a bigger say in the future academic work of polytechnics and colleges according to an agreement made with the Council for National Academic Awards last week.

At a meeting of representatives of the local education authorities and members of the CNAA it was agreed that the council's course inspectors should formally consult the local authority before making a report on a college. Any conditions they might want to impose on the academic recognition of the course would have to be discussed with the authority before publication.

Both sides hope the agreement will go some way to resolving the problem of the CNAA making academic recommendations which involve the local authority spending more money.

As Sir Ashley Bramall, chairman of the Council of Local Education Authorities and leader of the Inner London Education Authority, put it after the meeting: "Education authorities have been concerned about the implications of some of the CNAA's requirements before courses are validated."

"We have also been anxious that in some cases the CNAA's recommendations seem to be going beyond its proper academic concerns."

This was spelled out at the meeting. It was thought the CNAA recommendations on grading college librarians and the status of administrative officers as well as of medical facilities for polytechnic students exceeded its brief.

Officers of the CNAA and the two local authority associations which service the CLEA are to have a series of meetings. Together with officials of the Local Authorities' Conditions of Service Advisory Board they will plot the relation between the local authority requirements involved in CNAA validation and available levels of local government staff.

Also at last week's meeting a new draft guidelines for CNAA visiting parties inspecting college courses was discussed.

America confronts crucial race issue

from Michael Binyon

WASHINGTON

On Wednesday the United States Supreme Court heard arguments in one of the most momentous cases for years. The case, Allan Bakke v the University of California, has become a cause célèbre on its outcome depends not only the position of minority students and teachers in higher education but the future of race relations throughout America.

Allan Bakke, a 37-year-old white male, is suing the university for twice rejecting his application to the medical school at Davis while admitting 16 blacks with lower test scores. His suit alleges racial discrimination is a crucial challenge to the legality of all special programmes to help disadvantaged minorities get ahead in American education, business and society in general.

continued on back page



Mr Howard Nixon, librarian of the Chapter Library, Westminster Abbey, examines the *Mosaic* which was presented to the library in 1386 by the works at the Chapter Library to coincide with the Library Association centenary.

Row over press closure threat

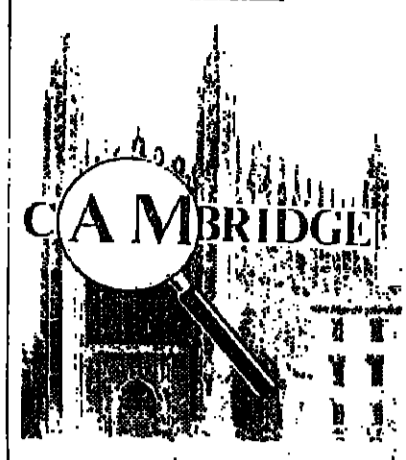
continued from page 1

contribution to scholarly publication which could not have been achieved by the university.

The working party report said that in 1974-75 within three of the only five titles written by academic staff were published by the Athlone Press whereas 143 books written by academics were published by other publishing houses.

A spokesman for London University said: "The closure of the press is still a suggestion not a proposal. Consultations are going on within the university and with the staff of the press. The staff have not been shown the report because this was felt to be a management document. There will be full consultation when the senate and court make their recommendations."

Contents



In a four-page special report Peter Wilby describes the achievements and the anachronism of Cambridge, 8-11

Zimoviev letter
Christopher Andrew discusses the dangers to historical research posed by careless, and careful, "weeding" of official documents, 15

André Malraux
Cecil Jenkins reviews Malraux's last work and two new books about the French writer and politician, 16

Ralf Dahrendorf
The director of the LSE argues that universities must resist "hysteria, prejudice, thoughtless dogma and intolerance", 7

Maths and physics
Professors R. L. Boyd and E. J. Burge are among the reviewers of new books on mathematics and physics, 18-20

The THES
We regret that this week's issue of *The Times* has had to be reduced in size. This is due to continuing problems in the Reading Room. From this week the position of the pages of news from North America and overseas has been changed. These pages will now appear immediately after the home news pages.

| | |
|---------------------|-------|
| North American news | 4 |
| Overseas news | 5 |
| Noticeboard | 6 |
| Don's diary | 7 |
| Letters | 14 |
| Books | 16-20 |
| Classified index | 21 |

Government accused on in-service provision

by Judith Judd
The Government has this week accused of dishonesty over the amount of in-service training for teachers. Mr Bill Bouden, chairman of the Council for Educational Advance, said: "There is less in-service training this year than last despite Government claims of an increase in provision."

Mr Bouden as speaking at a press conference for National Education Week, to be held next week in protest against cuts in education spending. He said it was not true that legislation could be used if the Government are to give an earmarked grant to in-service training. "A number of ventures such as the adult literacy campaign and trade union education have been financed in a similar way without legislation."

Academics' £3m from DoE for transport research

by David Walker
A wide degree of university and polytechnic involvement in planning and transport research is revealed in the latest report by the Department of the Environment on its annual programme of research and development.

Rules according to standard metric style

by Clive Cookson
A new style guide by the Metrication Board to write in metric, is intended to do for the regularisation of scientific units in the United Kingdom what Dr Johnson's Dictionary did for English spelling in the eighteenth century.

MPs idea of university finance 'wrong'

by Frances Gibb
The Committee of Public Accounts has based its recent comments on university finance on inaccurate information, according to the Association of University Teachers.



The distinguished composer, Elliott Carter, will give a talk at Keele University next Monday before a concert of his music linked to the work of Schubert and Beethoven. It will mark the start of the seventh season of Keele concerts.

'No selection' drive must end

Britain must reverse the drive towards selection in schools if the flow of inadequately qualified students for universities and polytechnics is to be maintained or increased, Professor Anthony Flew of Reading University said at the weekend.

Bank recruits brains trust

Twelve economists from the universities are being recruited by the Bank of England to act as a brains trust on economic and financial policy.

Students to vote on NUS

Referenda about membership of the National Union of Students will be held at Edinburgh and St. Andrews universities within the next few weeks.

£30,000 instalments

Newcastle University has presented with two £30,000 cheques by local businessman Mr William Leighton.

Playwright at Newcastle

Edward Bond, the playwright, has been appointed to a one year honorary fellowship at Newcastle University.

Eastern exchange offered

The British Council is offering all exchange visits for academics and scientists to Eastern European countries in the coming year.

Library on the move

The library of the British Computer Society moves to the new premises at the University of London.

Voucher pamphlet urges greater student choice

by David Walker
Student freedom of choice in higher education should be substantially increased, according to an Institute of Economic Affairs pamphlet published this week.

Welsh language policy will cost Bangor £38,000

by Frances Gibb
The council of the University College of North Wales, Bangor, has agreed to adopt a Welsh language policy which will cost an estimated £38,000 to implement.

Two from OU on advisory body

An academic and a student leader at the Open University have been invited to join the Advisory Council for Adult and Continuing Education.

Graduates in job survey

by Patricia Santiaelli
Fifteen thousand graduates are being asked to cooperate in a national survey launched this month by the Department of Employment to explore the relationship between education and work.

OUP Shakespeare editors named

The Oxford University Press has appointed Dr Stanley Wells, reader in English and Fellow of the Shakespeare Institute at Birmingham University, as head of its new Shakespeare department.

Human Action and its Psychological Investigation

ALAN GAULD and JOHN SHOTTER
For a hundred years psychology has been held in thrall by a great vision: that of a scientific psychology able to explain human behaviour in terms of a limited number of fundamental principles.

Living With Capitalism

Class Relations and the Modern Factory
THEO NICHOLS and HUW BEYNON
Here in this picture of a giant British chemical complex, "Chemax", compiled after three years' first-hand study by two sociologists, we are vividly reminded of how remote we politicians, economists and theorists are from life as it really is on the factory floor.

Collective Bargaining

What you always wanted to know about Trade Unions and never dared to ask
CLIVE JENKINS and BARRIE SHERMAN
The Science Research Council has awarded £116,825 to Dr P. Dinnill of University College, London, for a four-year study of the effects of food processing operations on proteins.

V-c resigns to work in India

Dr G. M. Curstairs, vice-chancellor of York University, is resigning from his post at the end of next September to devote a few years before his retirement to medical teaching and research in India.

Jobs come first in Cambridge

Cambridge University students are more concerned with getting jobs than with M.A. and the social scene, according to an article in this year's *Varsity* Handbook, published last week.

Library on the move

The library of the British Computer Society moves to the new premises at the University of London.

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On the other hand

Tough thinker

Mortimer Adler is huffed in the middle of a good row. His only academic qualification, for example, is a Ph.D. because he dislikes swimming.

Wurds, wurtz, worz

We find spelling worse and was pleased to see these publishers' little book of these words.

Picking his way

My request last week (THE TIMES September 30) for some sign of the country's mighty battalions of adult education to teach me to play the banjo for New Orleans jazz purposes has met with silence.

Witch-hunting alien to freedom



Ralf Dahrendorf

I had wanted to write this column about the social sciences in the developing countries; because this summer I visited places in India and Indonesia which are supported by the Ford Foundation.

Poly adding

Newcastle Polytechnic's Information officer took a light-hearted look at polytechnic advertising campaigns during a recent conference for university public relations officers at Bristol.

Is this the end?

After an unbroken run of 23 annual student drama festivals, next year's could well be the last. Durham has been chosen as the venue for what organizer Clive Wolfe says could be his swan song, from March 28 to April 2.



Mortimer Adler at rest and, finally, in the swim.

of their own society was as boundless as it was absolute, and those who believed they had always been right were responsible for the inability to come to grips with the disturbing phenomenon of terrorism.

There is, for one thing, the fact that the academic teachers to whom they refer were working in a context which was indifferent if not hostile to them.

I have always liked Sidney Webb's important and courageous statement about the foundation of the London School of Economics. He was, he said, "a person of decided views, radical and socialist."

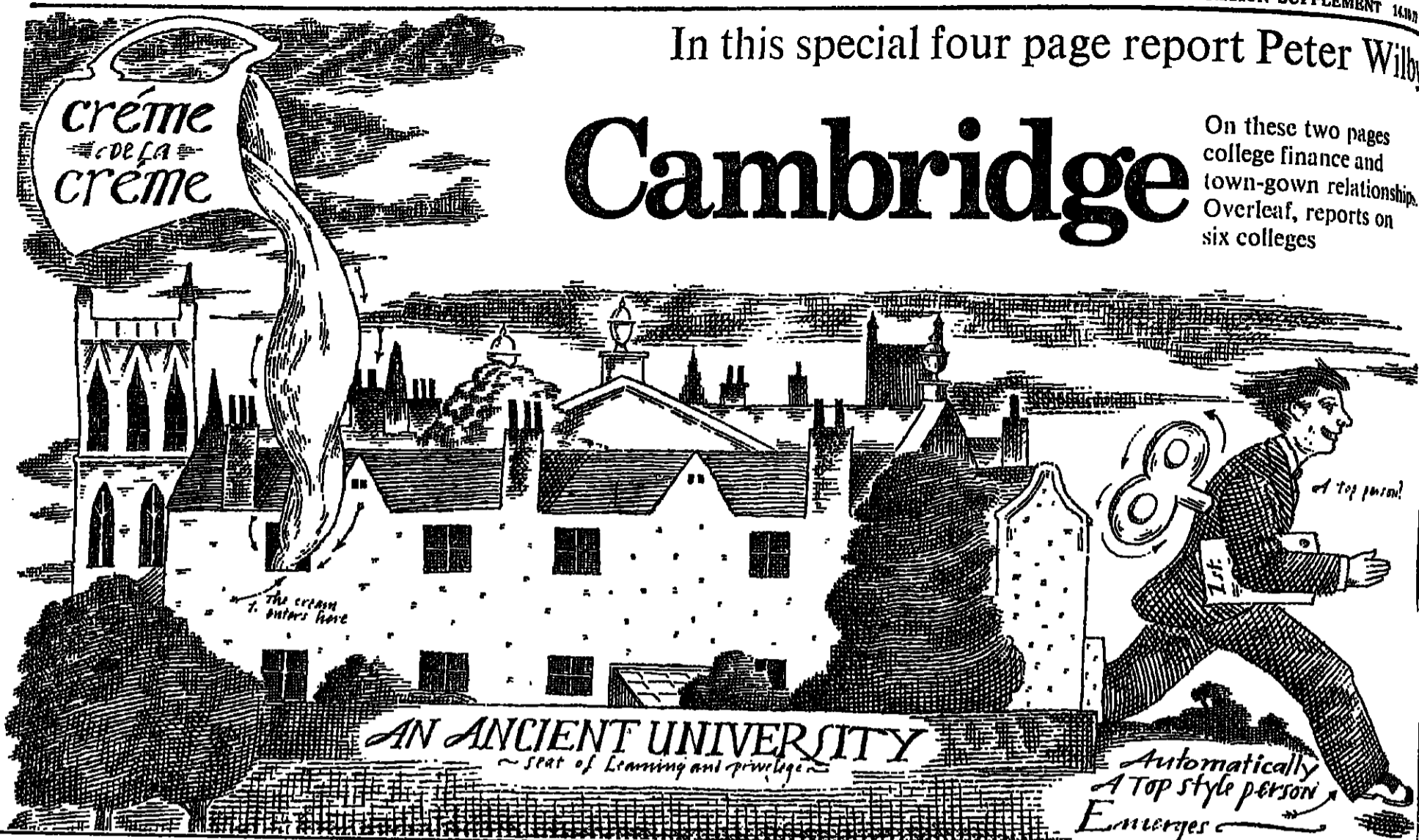
This is a time in which hysteria, prejudice, thoughtless dogma and intolerance seem to return with a vengeance. It is one of the great tasks of universities to exude an air of such tolerance and rationality that those forces do not gain access to them and may indeed be turned back.

Middlesex Polytechnic INSTITUTIONS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY One-day correspondence 19-20 October

In this special four page report Peter Wilby

Cambridge

On these two pages college finance and town-gown relationships. Overleaf, reports on six colleges



Finance—the Ritz conundrum

The table gives a simplified version of the complex accounts published by Cambridge colleges. Though the complexity makes exact comparison between colleges difficult, the table does give a picture of the sharp contrasts between colleges of different size and wealth.

times higher than Newham's. The latter's capital grant of £30,000 from the colleges' fund (which taxes the richer to help the poorer) appears only marginally helpful in this light.

The Government is anxious to put some limit on the currently unopposed commitment of local education authorities to supporting Oxbridge colleges through students' fees. At present, the total public support for the two universities (from the University Grants Committee and from local fees) is somewhat higher per student head than at other universities.

City of scheming squires

The influence of the university on Cambridge is apparent from the moment the visitor gets off the train and finds that he needs a £1 taxi to reach the centre.

leg's price. The fields will now be sold to commercial housing developers, leaving the school with just a small all-weather playing surface.

Table with 5 columns: Income, Caius, Sidney Sussex, Newham, Trinity. Rows include Net income from estates and property, Dividends and interest, Room rents and service charges, etc.

Table with 5 columns: Expenditure, Caius, Sidney Sussex, Newham, Trinity. Rows include Payments to dons, Payments to external directors, Follows' allowances, etc.

Another problem concerns the sale of Magdalene College's sports fields. A neighbouring school, the University of Exeter, has been unable to meet the

examines the achievements and anachronisms of Cambridge University

Still home of the elite

Oxford and Cambridge have many of the characteristics that we would expect to find in elite institutions. They include a special entrance examination, a high proportion of residential accommodation, high expenditure and exceptionally good libraries.

In academic terms, there is no doubt that the two universities still take the cream. Less than 2 per cent of the men entrants to Cambridge in 1976 passed, compared with 17 per cent of the male entrants to all universities.

And, again among the men, A-level results for more outstanding than those of public school recruits to the university (see table three).

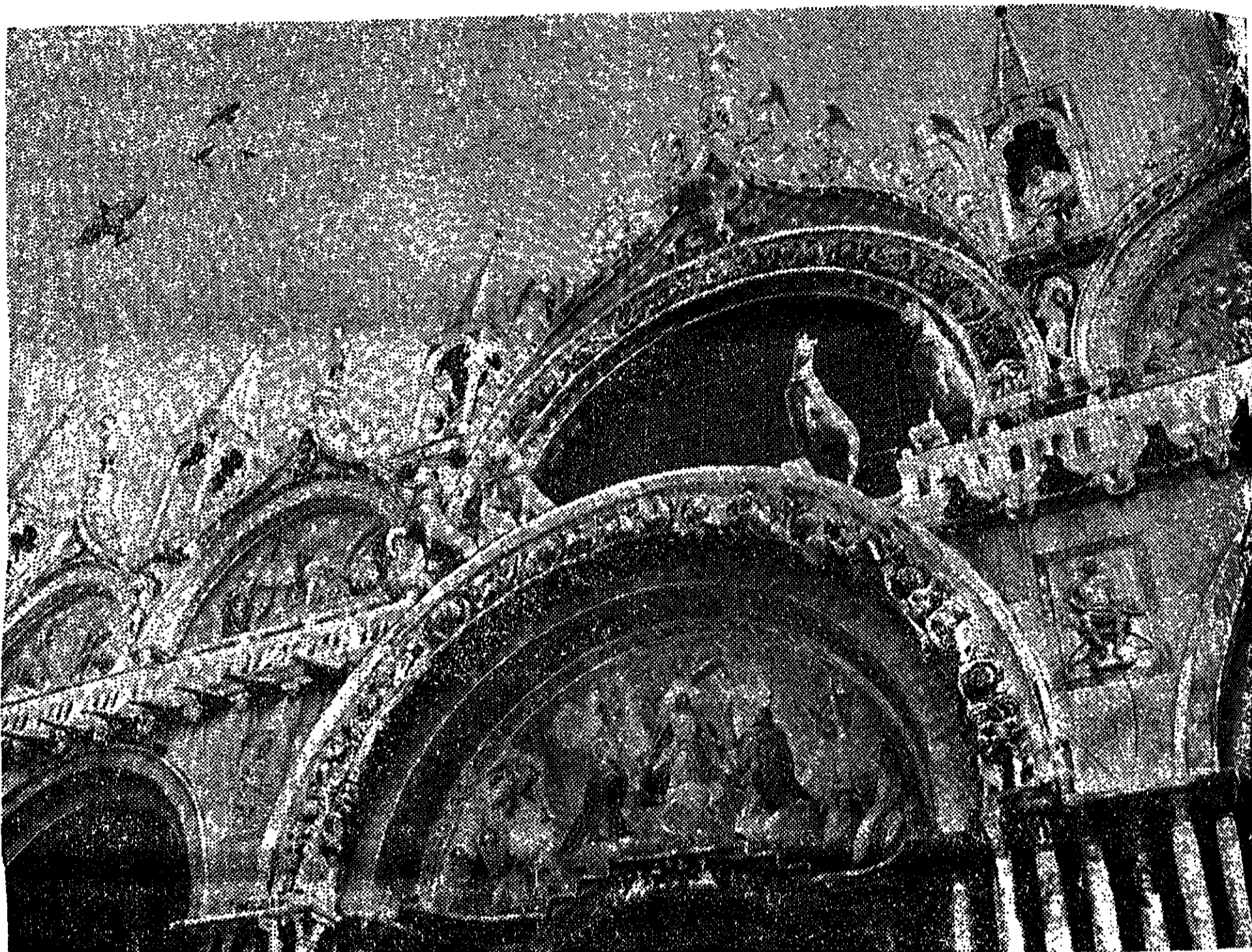
university graduates. The general pattern is that the Cambridge graduate is more likely to embark on research or higher degree, less likely to set out on a school-teaching career. He is more likely to enter the home Civil Service, less likely to enter local government.

CLIMATES OF HUNGER

Mankind and the World's Changing Weather. REID A. BRYSON and THOMAS J. MURRAY

Climate has always had profound effects upon human history, helping both to build and to destroy great civilizations. Until now, we have not had the knowledge to react intelligently to the signs of shifting effect climate purposefully.

Table One: Rates of success in Cambridge applications. Table Two: Proportion of three A level holders with 13 to 15 points. Table Three: Proportion of three A level holders with 13 to 15 points. Table Four: Success rate in entrance exam. Table Five: Destinations of 1975 men graduates.



A little capital can buy a lot of city.

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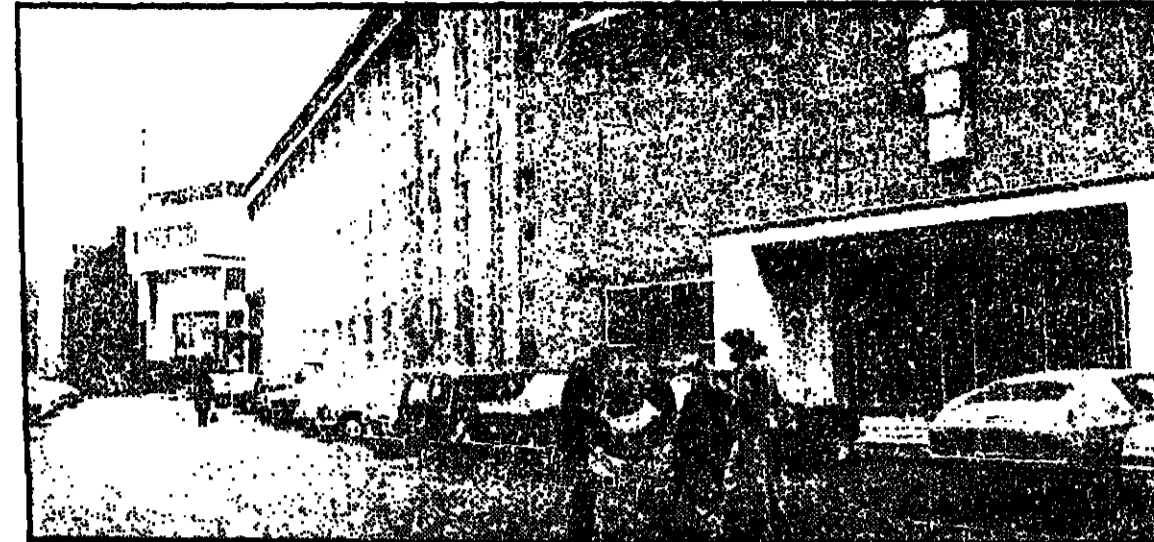
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Henry Cowper and Guy Neave discuss one educational task that would face a Scottish Assembly

Wanted: a plan for Scotland's central institutions

As the new parliamentary session draws nearer there are renewed hopes in Scotland that the coming year will see the setting up of a Scottish Assembly. How the assembly will deal with higher education—either through a Higher Education Council or through a council for post-secondary education—is a matter of intense speculation. Whatever the outcome, one of the thorniest problems the assembly will have to face is the form and organisation of the central institutions. Centres of excellence outside the university or merely another example of what writers south of the border have termed "academic drift" the central institutions are one of the more ticklish issues in that sector of higher education long recognised for its devolved character. Of the 14 central institutions, 11 come under the Scottish Education Department in Edinburgh, and the remaining three are governed by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. Founded in 1901 as centres of excellence in technical education, they now embrace courses such as applied sciences, art, music, drama, home economics, and commerce. Until recently, they retained a considerable commitment to their technical origins and, to some English eyes at least, appeared less polytechnic than monotechnic. Unlike the polytechnics, they do not come under theegis of local authorities and, in theory at least, a coordinating role over their development is exercised by the Inspectorate working out from St Andrew's House. Another feature unique to Scotland and of particular importance to the evolution of the central institutions is the process involved in setting up new degree level courses. New courses do not involve merely the academic staff—the way they are taught. There is such a demand among school leavers that the courses will be efficient in terms of staff support and other resources. There also has to be a wide enough demand among employers and on the labour market generally to justify such an initiative. In England, these considerations are usually subject to internal debate inside the institution concerned and between its directorate and members of the local authority. In Scotland, however, the mechanisms exist to set the initial proposal for degree level submissions. They review the likely demand and the student outlets before forwarding the submission to the Council for National Academic Awards. Their task is to make sure that the proposal is fully in keeping with the particular features of higher education in Scotland and also to avoid undue duplication of courses at national level. Only when an establishment has demonstrated adequate demand and equally adequate availability of jobs will the submission be forwarded to the CNAA. In theory, the presence of such a mechanism should not only ensure a balanced national development for the degree level non-university sector. It should also make for a relatively clear cut distinction of tasks between central institutions on the one hand and the locally controlled colleges of further education on the other. Much of the difficulty, however, springs from the fact that for the best part of this century courses equivalent to further education in England were carried out by either the central institutions or day and evening classes attached to schools. Only in 1975 did a locally run further education sector begin to develop. Today, there are over 60 further education colleges in Scotland. One of the results of setting up the further education sector has been a radical change in the type of courses followed by students in central institutions. Over the 10 years from 1962-63 the proportion of students following full-time courses has more than doubled from 33 to 78 per cent, while those



Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art: outcome of decision to split the Dundee College of Technology.

following part-time studies have fallen from 37 to 7 per cent. Behind the facade of administrative homogeneity, however, the central institutions have developed haphazardly. And over the past few years, when the downturn in entrants to higher education became marked, the practice grew up of "filling" courses established in the further education sector and transferring them to the central institutions to fill up the empty places. This process has also taken place at the upper end with the introduction of CNAA degree courses. In other words, the central institutions' work spans almost the whole gamut of post-secondary education in Scotland from university level down to day-release work usually assigned to colleges of further education. The situation has not passed unremarked. In 1969, the Educational Institute of Scotland, the national teachers' organisation and a considerable power in the land, proposed that these CIs involved in degree work should merge with the colleges of further education in which the local authority further education colleges. This bold suggestion rested on the belief that greater efficiency would be achieved if the duplication of resources was avoided. One course could be avoided. The EIS also recommended that no new CIs should be created for this would merely compound the anomaly. This excellent advice, which would have set on a clearer system in the secondary education in Scotland, was commented upon, noted, and ignored. In 1975 the Scottish Education Department split the Dundee College of Technology into two, and created the Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art—a decision that in retrospect was most astute, given that the falling birthrate and education cuts were likely to be felt most severely in areas where the new institution specialised. Indeed, if one examines the rich provision of post-secondary education in Dundee, the current administrative predicament of Scottish post-secondary education emerges in all its terrible splendour. Convinced within heavy ramparts are a university (around 2,400 students in 1974), a newly built college of education (which will lead to the eventual closing of at least three others), two central institutions already mentioned, a local authority technical college, and a local authority college of commerce. The idea of merging some of these establishments to form a polytechnic is resisted, both in Dundee and elsewhere, on the grounds that it is an alien practice and might be discouraged. In the case of other central institutions what passes ostensibly as diversification at one level becomes very quickly, when compared to the type of work carried out within local authority establishments, a process of "duplication". One obstacle to greater coordination between the two sectors is the historic status and prestige accorded to the central institutions as well as the differences in allegiance between staff in the two sectors. Many further education teachers are members of the EIS while central institution staff appear split between the EIS, ASTMS, NATPFE and other associations. Certainly, there is a need to preserve that measure of flexibility which the Robbins report recognized as essential for a small country such as Scotland. But at a time of severe restrictions in the educational budget, the assembly has the potential to work out a model more in keeping with Scottish requirements than the accumulated and often conflicting developments of the past 40 years. Clear scrutiny is needed of the workings of the central institutions, first set up to "develop into institutions worthy in rank in quality and achievement with the best of the kind in any other country". It is no longer sufficient merely to state that they are the "Scottish equivalent of polytechnics". The claims to excellence of these institutions cannot rest upon the achievement of similar bodies south of the border, however appealing that might appear to some. And just how far the claims of individual establishments are justified, though important, is by no means as significant as knowing how far those claims are borne out for the species as a whole. Henry Cowper is senior counsellor for the Open University in Scotland and Guy Neave is senior research fellow at the European Cultural Foundation's Institute of Education.

Love's labours' reward for an anarchical Don Juan

Guido Almansi reviews Peter Hall's Glyndebourne production of Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, now on tour

The death of Molière's Don Juan has been described as a kind of suicide. In Peter Hall's interpretation, the character of Don Giovanni also appears to commit suicide, because only in hell would his rage for chaos be satisfied. The Glyndebourne production of *Don Giovanni*, which is now touring the country together with Janáček's *The Cunning Little Vixen* and Verdi's *Falstaff*, starts with an unusual image of Leporello squatting in a corner of the stage under an immense black umbrella, more suitable to a divinity student than to a roguish servant. The libretto, which is contradictory in its meteorological references, first suggests that it is pouring rain on Leporello ("Pioggia e vento soppo'ra"); but immediately after dawn breaks on a bright day, favourable to some new seduction ("Essendo qualca nuova conquista? lo lo devo saper per porla in lista"). The black umbrella which scatters Leporello from his arm in the second and implausibly saves him from his master's sword-thrusts in the third, is not particularly suited to the libretto or the character—but it acts as a powerful symbol of the gloomy and tempestuous mood of this production. The sky is always dark, and so are the clothes of the singers, with the exception of a solitary moderate, the stately Countess Elvira. The set architecture is sombre, almost cathedral, with balconies resembling sepulchres in mid-air and houses not dissimilar from funeral chapels. Season's late autumn. Sign: Scorpio. Artistic deity: Goliath. The opera is thus pushed forward to an early nineteenth-century Spain, with a Castilian rather than an Andalusian background, and the 1830s is however exploited by Peter Hall to recognise some contradictions between what the libretto says and what the producer suggests. For instance, when Donna Anna, Donna Elvira and Don Ottavio, all delighted, are invited to the ball, they are referred to as young, elegant, modest, happy, "maschere maschere" and "che maschere maschere". But in this production the three characters are magnificently clad in simple, classic, and the masks on their faces are thin white stripes, transferring them into images of doom. The elegance of these harbingers of death is thus subvertically, not worldly as in the past. The librettist, Lorenzo da Ponte, was trying to achieve something quite different in 1791 at the crossroads of two different traditions. On the one hand there was a comic tale with wicked Don Giovanni surrounded by devils who stick their pitch-forks in his backside. On the other hand there was a tragic version going back to the mythical roots of the legend, which are damnatory and funeral. Peter Hall does not accept the Dapontian juncture, but invests his own Mozartian Don Giovanni, leaning heavily towards Trigo and the vengeance to recognise with the audience our conventional image of



Alcalon King as Leporello and Thomas Allen as Don Giovanni.

Spain, with a mortuary country afflicted by a sort of incurable death-wish. It is a difficult task to accommodate some contradictions between what the libretto says and what the producer suggests. For instance, when Donna Anna, Donna Elvira and Don Ottavio, all delighted, are invited to the ball, they are referred to as young, elegant, modest, happy, "maschere maschere" and "che maschere maschere". But in this production the three characters are magnificently clad in simple, classic, and the masks on their faces are thin white stripes, transferring them into images of doom. The elegance of these harbingers of death is thus subvertically, not worldly as in the past. The librettist, Lorenzo da Ponte, was trying to achieve something quite different in 1791 at the crossroads of two different traditions. On the one hand there was a comic tale with wicked Don Giovanni surrounded by devils who stick their pitch-forks in his backside. On the other hand there was a tragic version going back to the mythical roots of the legend, which are damnatory and funeral. Peter Hall does not accept the Dapontian juncture, but invests his own Mozartian Don Giovanni, leaning heavily towards Trigo and the vengeance to recognise with the audience our conventional image of

The author is professor of comparative literature at the University of East Anglia. The Glyndebourne production is at present in Southampton, and moves next week to Manchester.

BOOKS

In the library of the imaginary museum

L'Homme précaire et la littérature by André Malraux... ISBN 0 297 717779

One of the central ideas of André Malraux was that of metamorphosis, by which he meant the transposition through juxtaposition of masterpieces of all ages in that 'imaginary museum'...

Mr Madsen makes full use of these sources, and tends indeed to reproduce the judgments and formulations of others in a way which suggests rather the journalist's biographical survey than a profound imaginative self-identification with his subject...

Malraux's Life and Work comprises essays by 17 contributors on various aspects of the writer's career and a concluding piece by Malraux himself...

was 'to knock down the wall of rhetoric which appears to bar, for the Anglo-Saxons and particularly the British, the access to Malraux's work'...

There is perhaps too much routine stuff by big names from other fields and enough portentous triviality, as in the pieces by Nicola Alghamdi, C. L. Sulzberger and the lyrical Victoria Ocampo...

Nevertheless there are good things in this collection, quite apart from the professional contributions of Walter Langlois, Hugh Thomas, Françoise Dorclot and Jean Lemarié...

While pride of place should perhaps be granted to the excellent essay by Manes Sperber on his friend's political affiliations, one should also mention E. H. Gombrich's historical placing of Malraux's philosophy of art...

These ghosts still linger over the posthumous L'Homme précaire et la littérature which, although it is an independently conceived and quite lengthy study...



André Malraux

of which it was in effect the form. The mutation of this cultural atmosphere and value-system from the thirteenth century onwards is traced through the Renaissance, the Renaissance, the rise of literature to equal status with painting and, in particular, the development of the theatrical arts...

These 'technical arts', in Malraux's view, diminish the individual, devalue the sense of deity and the need for personal meaning which time and death impose upon every life...

While the conventional view of the human predicament is limited to go with the modern universal verdict and anguished nostalgia, our open-ended future may be incomprehensible to a world where men outgrow their definitions of 'Man'...

ing but virtually abolished the ability of meaning. Malraux, in fact, reasserts that the idea of a museum is not a mere possibility of an institution of the past...

Malraux, then, although mellowed and less haughty when on the verge of death, although he necessarily had to be a pluralist as a fact...

It is significant also that Malraux, writing, and that he is arguing by exaggerating the differences, despising temporary differences, forming new friendships and cementing old, and draws the gentlemen of the country into one closer bond of society...

While the conventional view of the human predicament is limited to go with the modern universal verdict and anguished nostalgia, our open-ended future may be incomprehensible to a world where men outgrow their definitions of 'Man'...

These 'technical arts', in Malraux's view, diminish the individual, devalue the sense of deity and the need for personal meaning which time and death impose upon every life...

Cecil Jaeger

BOOKS

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It is significant also that Malraux, writing, and that he is arguing by exaggerating the differences, despising temporary differences, forming new friendships and cementing old...

While the conventional view of the human predicament is limited to go with the modern universal verdict and anguished nostalgia, our open-ended future may be incomprehensible to a world where men outgrow their definitions of 'Man'...

These 'technical arts', in Malraux's view, diminish the individual, devalue the sense of deity and the need for personal meaning which time and death impose upon every life...

The Politics of Electoral Pressure: A Study in the History of Victorian Reform Movements by D. A. Hamer... ISBN 0 85527 939 0

Professor Hamer is primarily concerned in this book with a group of Victorian 'crusades', and especially with the ways in which these movements tried to exert political pressure in order to achieve the statutory enactment of the measures for which they campaigned.

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Victorian crusaders

now much less so as well intended in elections was of minor importance. Where any significant impact can be discerned a common result was to procure the return of Conservative MPs.

A great deal of hard work has gone into the preparation of this book, and a considerable mass of detailed information is well controlled and lucidly expounded.

The Victorian crusades, and especially with the ways in which these movements tried to exert political pressure in order to achieve the statutory enactment of the measures for which they campaigned.

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Hamer has to tell us that their intention in elections was of minor importance. Where any significant impact can be discerned a common result was to procure the return of Conservative MPs.

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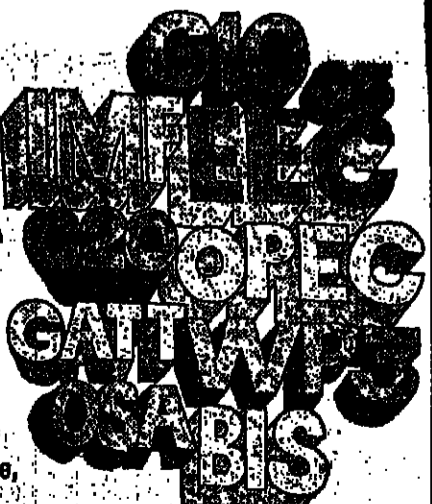
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